

Casper's Crime Rate

Jaylen Matthews

Department of Psychology, Casper College

PSYCH 1000

Kristina Pham

December 8, 2023

The real life issue at hand is the quest to enhance public safety in Casper, Wyoming. Casper is celebrated for its natural beauty and close-knit community. In the pursuit of a safer living environment, a comparative analysis with Laramie county has revealed valuable insights that can inform strategies to fortify safety measures in Casper. This essay delves into the statistics from Laramie county and outlines the actionable steps for Casper to become a safer and more secure community.

During the research into crime statistics in Laramie county, a nuanced problem surfaced: the unequal distribution of safety across neighborhoods. Laramie county experiences varying crime rates, with the northwest part considered the safest and the south neighborhoods presenting a higher risk. This geographic disparity poses a challenge not only to Laramie county but also prompts a reevaluation of neighborhood specific safety initiatives in Casper, a consideration that hadn't been fully explored yet.

While most neighborhoods do not require constant monitoring by law enforcement, some may need more police presence to ensure safety in the community. In Casper, many of the crimes committed are done in retail based areas where there is close to no security on site. This is a problem I don't think many have considered as there is not a lot of police presence in retail areas. Some stores have security or even associates to help shoplifting; however, it is not considered how easily someone can do property damage or hurt somebody with no police actively scanning the parking lots or behind retail buildings.

Throughout Laramie and Natrona county, the crime rate in neighborhood's fluctuates exponentially. While most southwest neighborhoods have a better "grade" in Casper, there are quite a few neighborhoods that are constantly graded as having a higher crime rate than Laramie's neighborhoods. According to Crimegrade (2023): "The C grade means the rate of

crime is about the same as the average US county. Laramie county is in the 45th percentile for safety, meaning 55% of counties are safer and 45% of counties are more dangerous.” While Laramie county has a lower overall crime score than Casper, they have some strategies that keep their residents safe that I believe Casper should mirror such as: community engagement and collaboration, data driven policing and resource allocation, and public awareness/ education campaigns.

Casper can greatly benefit from neighborhood specific action; however, not every community is as tight knit as others in Natrona county. If every neighborhood- including the highest crime rated neighborhoods- had one community event or community meeting on what should be improved and getting to know your neighbors, I believe the crime rate would greatly decrease. According to Crimegrade (2023): “The B grade means the rate of crime is slightly lower than the average US county. Natrona county is in the 64th percentile for safety, meaning 36% of counties are safer and 64% of counties are more dangerous.” While Casper maintains a relatively low overall rate of violent crime, Laramie county’s statistics highlight the importance of a comprehensive understanding of crime dynamics. The rate of crime in Laramie county prompts Casper to consider adopting targeted measures to address specific challenges and areas of concern, ensuring a more uniformly safe environment across the city.

In conclusion, the comparative analysis between Casper and Laramie county illuminates the crucial insights that can guide efforts to fortify public safety in Casper. The unexplored problem of unequal safety distribution across the neighborhoods in Laramie county serves as a cautionary tale, urging Casper to consider the potential repercussions of similar disparities within its own community. The quote from Laramie county’s statistics emphasize the need for improvement beyond average standards and highlight the importance of neighborhood specific safety initiatives. The quotes from both sources converge the critical theme of inequality in safety across regions within Laramie county and Natrona county. As casper grapples with the

challenge of fortifying public safety, these insights suggest we need specific safety programs for certain neighborhoods. The percentile ranking emphasizes the quest for improvement beyond average standards, while the varying crime rates across Laramie county neighborhoods underline the urgency of tailoring initiatives to address specific challenges. By heeding these lessons, Casper can strive to create a safer environment for all its residents, learning from the success and challenges faced by our neighboring country

Resources:

Grade, C. (n.d.). *The Safest And Most Dangerous Places In Natrona County, WY: Crime Maps and Statistics*. Crimegrade.org. Retrieved December 8, 2023, from

<https://crimegrade.org/safest-places-in-natrona-county-wy/>

Grade, C. (n.d.). *The Safest And Most Dangerous Places In Laramie County, WY: Crime Maps and Statistics*. Crimegrade.org. Retrieved December 8, 2023, from

<https://crimegrade.org/safest-places-in-laramie-county-wy/>